

Testimony of LESLEY GOMEZ
FACILITATOR OF THE WOODBURY BETHLEHEM PARENT CONNECTION, INC.
[if RAC say- and member of the Connecticut Prevention Network]

***H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.**

*February 23 2017 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health Public Hearing
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Regional Action Council Funding*

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee, my name is [insert name] Pamela Mautte and I am [insert title and if member of the Ct Prevention Network say so] I am here today to strongly oppose the grave cuts to regional action councils that will decimate the current prevention network structure.

The Woodbury – Bethlehem Parent Connection is a support group for parents/caregivers who have adolescents/adults who are abusing drugs/alcohol.

Without the guidance and assistance of our local RAC (CNVRAC) we would not be as successful as we are. They provide us with current information that maybe a threat/danger to our community. CNVRAC participates in all of the substance abuse activities:

For example:

CNVRAC has organized the annual forum for the SMART program in Southbury and any other events they have in the works. ASAP (Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention) The Annual Community Health, the Drug Take Back program and the annual walk for Recovery in September. Where ever CNVRAC goes, they bring with them all their updated information. CNVRAC also speaks in the evenings to schools in her area to educate parents and organizes speakers to present their journey through addiction. She has also organized Narcan Training. I am speaking about Jennifer DeWitt. She works days and evenings to spread the word, educate, and help individuals and groups when they have no place to turn. I am only touching on a few of the services she provides the communities her area. She goes above and beyond.

Should the budget be cut and we lose or decrease these services, I guarantee there will be an increase in opioids death and overdoses. It will not be cost effective to eliminate or cut back these services. One way or another the State will incur the costs of hospitalization, homelessness, crime, etc.

What do you think would be more cost effective?

Thank you.

Lesley Gomez

23 Clubhouse Drive

Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 733-1147